

# TSC: Expectant in Worship

1 Kings 8.1-11

## Key Points:

- As God continues to write His story through Springfield, He invites us to join in by being expectant in worship. Worshipping God (through song, and with our whole lives) can feel like a slog sometimes, and if it does we need to ask the question, 'What am I expecting to happen?'
- In 1 Kings 8 we see some basic principles: 1. **Worship begins with gathering together** (v.1), 2. **Worship is about God**, not us, and therefore not dependant on our feelings or circumstances (v.2), 3. **Worship is costly** and doesn't always feel safe (v.3-5), 4. **Worship brings us closer to God**, not the other way around (v.6-11).
- In Christ, we are temples of the Holy Spirit (Eph 2.22) and in the same way that the presence of God **filled** the temple in 1 Kings 8 (and 2 Chronicles 5), now **WE** are **filled** by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5.18b-19) as we worship and make music to the Lord in our hearts! What an incredible truth, and definitely something to raise our levels of expectation. As usual with God, our expectation should always exceed our experience!

## Questions:

**Conversation Starter** - Get the group involved with a question everyone can answer

1. What's your favourite worship song, and what does it say about who God is or what He's done?

**Start thinking** - Get the group thinking around the subject,

2. What do you think the differences are between 'psalms, hymns and spiritual songs' (Eph 5.19)? Do you use all of these in your worship life?
3. Why should worship be costly? What happens when it's not?

**Start sharing** - Choose a question to create openness

4. When you find worship a bit of slog (both singing and whole-life worship), why do you think that is? What needs to change?
5. Share a time when you experienced the presence of God. What was it like?
6. 'With God, our expectations should always exceed our experience'. Why? And how can we grow in expectation?

**Start praying.**

7. *'God You are indescribably awesome, and we love You. Help us in our worship, to put you first, to expect more and to experience more of You each day. Amen!'*

**Start doing**

8. Spend some time before you leave worshipping God together (be creative!) but intentionally make space for God to move.
9. During the week perhaps set aside a time each day, or a minute each hour (yes - it's costly! But worth it!) to intentionally worship God. Report back to the group next time you meet.